

10/587505

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 JUL 2006

Translation of the pertinent portions of a Request for Payment of Additional Fees, mailed 07/07/2005

1. The International Searching Authority

i) is of the opinion that the international application comprises 5 inventions, which are contained in the claims on the separate page,

and is of the opinion that the international application does not meet the requirement of uniformity (Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons listed on the separate page:

ii) has conducted an international partial search (see attachment)

of the portions of the international application relating to claims 1 to 10, 41, 42.

2. Applicant is requested to pay the below indicated fees within a month from the mailing of this notification

EUR 1,550.00 x 4 = EUR 6,200.00

PAP20 RECEIVED 27 JUL 2006

The International Searching Authority has determined that this international application contains several (groups of) inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1 to 10, 41, 42

The properties/characteristics of the image regulator

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2. Claims: 5, 11 to 22, 28, 29

The properties/characteristics of the printing groups and their cylinders

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3. Claims 5, 23, 25, 27, 32 to 34

Holding device

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4. Claims 5, 24, 26, 27, 32 to 34

Register pin

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5. Claims 5, 30, 31, 36 to 40

Drive/control of the elements of the printing press

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1

The single common idea (identical or connected characteristics) between independent claims 1, 3, 5 is a priori the compensation of the transverse/longitudinal elongation of the material to be imprinted by a design and/or a positioning of a print image location. However, this common inventive idea is not inventive (see below).

Therefore no single common inventive idea exists between independent claims 1, 3, 5.

2

In view of D1 - USP 5,806,430 the subject of claims 1, 3, 5 is not inventive (Article 33(1), 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

2.1

Document D1 - USP 5,806,430, which is considered to constitute the closest prior art, discloses (see the abstract) a printing press with a plurality of printing groups, wherein a portion of the transverse elongation of the material to be imprinted, which is known at the time of the application of an image to at least one printing forme to be arranged in the downstream-located printing group, is compensated by means of a design on the printing forme, from which the subject of claim 5 differs in that an image regulator, which deforms the material to be imprinted transversely in respect to its production flow, compensates the transverse elongation of the material to be imprinted by a factor DQ.

2.2

Therefore the object to be attained by means of the present invention can be seen to lie in improving the compensation of the transverse/longitudinal elongation.

2.3

However, it is generally known to one skilled in the art (for example, see D2 - USP 4,404,906, column 1) that the following characteristics are suitable for compensating the transverse/longitudinal deformation:

- a design of the printing forme - see D1 or D2, col. 1, lines 27 to 37,

- a positioning of the print image location - see D3 - DE 195 16 368, or D4 - DE 197 47 728, col. 1, lines 28 to 32,

- an image regulator - see D2, col. 1, lines 39 to 46, or D5 - DE 43 27 646, abstract, or D4 - USP 6,550,384 [sic], abstract,

- a tensioning system for a material to be tensed - see D2, column 1, lines 48 to 53,

- a roller which deforms the material to be imprinted - see D2, column 2, lines 1 to 10.

These characteristics are equivalent and can be interchanged if needed. In addition, it is clear that these characteristics are not connected with each other and that they can be used independently of each other.

Document D2 describes the same advantages (the compensation of the transverse elongation) as the instant application.

The characteristics "image regulator", "design" and/or "positioning of the print image location" represent only two/three of several obvious options, from which applicant can make a selection in accordance with the circumstances without inventive actions in order to attain the intended object.

Between the characteristics of claim 5 there is neither synergy, nor any surprising effects, for selecting such a combination. The subject of claim 5 merely consists of a side-by-side representation of known characteristics and therefore is not inventive (Article 33(1), (3) PCT)

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The subject of claim 5 is not inventive, and the different inventions/groups of inventions therefore are a posteriori:

- 1 - Claims 1 to 10, 41, 42  
the properties/characteristics of the image regulator,
- 2 - Claims 5, 11 to 22, 28, 29  
the properties/characteristics of the printing groups  
and their cylinders,
- 3 - Claims 5, 23, 25 to 27, 32 to 34  
a holding device holding at least one printing forme,
- 4 - Claims 5, 24, 25 to 27, 32 to 34  
a register pin aligning at least one printing forme,
- 5 - Claims 5, 30, 31, 36 to 40  
a drive/control device of the elements of the printing  
press.

The objects to be attained here consist in:

- 1 - to improve the shape of the image regulator,
- 2 - to increase the printing capacity (width/circumference of the cylinders, printing group characteristics ...) of the printing press,
- 3 - to hold the printing forme better,  
- to align the printing forme exactly,
- 5 - to improve the control/drive mechanism (phase relation, control unit, control console ...).

The objects of the five inventions/groups differ from each other, a lack of unity therefore exists.

Since the special technical characteristics are neither identical nor connected (Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT), the different inventions are not connected. Moreover, the present application lacks unity.